AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of controlling routing of packets in a connectionless routing protocol network including an infrastructure of packet switching nodes interconnected by packet transport links, and a plurality of access nodes to which a routing path, defined by data held in packet switching nodes located along said routing path, may be directed in said infrastructure for a given network address, said method comprising:

routing packets along a first routing path for a first network address, which routing path is directed to a first access node serving a mobile node using said first network address via a communications link;

designating an interface, other than the communications link to the mobile node from the first access node, on which to forward packets arriving along said first routing path to a second access node;

altering routing in said infrastructure for said first network address to create a second routing path for said first network address, directed to said second access node;

altering routing in said infrastructure for said first network address to remove said first routing path not before said second routing path is created;

subsequent to the designation of said interface, handing over the communications link of the mobile node, such that the second access node serves said mobile node; and

responsive to the handing over of the communications link, altering routing in said infrastructure for said first network address to create a second routing path for said first network address, directed to said second access node;

1137743

responsive to the creation of said second routing path, altering routing in said

infrastructure for said first network address to remove said first routing path; and

routing packets to said second access node via said second routing path.

2.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, wherein said

designating step comprises designating a forward path from said first access node to said second

access node for said first network address, said forward path not requiring routing in said

infrastructure to be altered for said first network address.

3.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2, wherein said arriving

packets are encapsulated and transmitted via a packet tunnel forming said forward path.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 3, wherein said packet

tunnel is provided by tunnelling via said infrastructure.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 2 wherein one or more

control data packets for managing said routing alteration are transmitted via said forward path.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 5, wherein said one or

more control data packets comprise a control data packet initiating said routing alteration at said

second access node.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim ~~1~~2 wherein said forward

path is designated by state data held in said first access node and related to said mobile node.

1137743

8.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 7, said state data being removed from said first access node following propagation of said routing update to said first access node.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 8, wherein said state data is removed from said first access node in response to receipt of said routing update at said first access node.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 8 wherein said first access node transmits a routing update acknowledgement to said second access node in response to receipt of said routing update.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 7 wherein a time-out is associated with said state data, said state data being removed from said first access node following said time-out.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, wherein said interface is directed towards a cache local to said first access node.

13.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, wherein said routing alteration comprises said second access node transmitting a routing update to said infrastructure.

14.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 13, wherein said routing update is arranged to propagate via said infrastructure to said first access node.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 14, wherein said routing update is transmitted to said first access node as a unicast update.

1137743

16.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, wherein said

designating step is performed in response to receipt of a mobility request received from mobile

node at said first access node.

17.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, wherein said

communications link is a wireless link.

18.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 17, wherein the

functionality of said wireless link allows said mobile node to receive data from only one of said

first access node and said second access node during said handover.

19.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 18, wherein said

wireless link is a TDMA radio link.

20.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 17, wherein the

functionality of said wireless link allows said mobile node to receive data from both said first

access node and said second access node during said handover.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 20, wherein said

wireless link is a ODMA radio link.

22.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to~~as in claim 1, wherein said network

address is an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

1137743